

Record

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NAMB commissions new missionaries

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CHESAPEAKE, Va. (BP) — Just a little more than 10 years ago, Todd Briggs didn't know what it meant to have a personal relationship with Christ. Today, he's pastoring EPIC Village Church in midtown Atlanta and telling others how they can know God personally.

"I am a testimony to God's great work," Briggs said. "I didn't come to Christ until I was 35 years old."

Briggs joined 116 other North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries at a commissioning service May 19 at River Oak Church in Chesapeake, Va.

In addition to church planters like Briggs, the NAMB commissioning service included a chaplain at a Kentucky veterans center, three missionaries serving Baltimore's Strategic Focus City ministry, a director of a crisis pregnancy center near the University of Texas, the director of a battered women's shelter near Tulsa, a chaplain ministering to truck drivers in Denver, and a couple operating a seafarer's ministry center in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

Briggs shared the story of meeting a couple, Sean and Charice, who had recently relocated to Atlanta. "They were from Canada and we came from Michigan, which is practically Canada," Briggs said to the amusement of the audience. "The husband was a believer but had become disaffected with church. His wife was not a believer. They came to one of our church's first events."

That day, NAMB national missionary Kerry Jackson shared the Gospel artistically through a wall-sized puzzle, and each person present was given a puzzle piece.

"The family of God is not complete without everybody," Briggs noted at the end of the service. He then invited the attendees to bring their puzzle piece forward to complete the picture. Charice came with her piece that day and invited Christ into her life.

"That is the call we have answered," Briggs told the audience. "Thank you for enabling us to do it."

Briggs and Johy Yi, a church planting missionary in the Chicago area, thanked Southern Baptists for support-



COMMISSIONED — Tim Patterson (right) newly-elected trustee chairman of the North American Mission Board, prays with chaplain Rob Morris (in uniform), his wife Cindy (second from left) and an unidentified woman. Morris was one of 117 new missionaries and chaplains commissioned by the North American Mission Board during a service that took place May 19 at River Oak Church in Chesapeake, Va. (BP photo)

ing the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions that provide support for Southern Baptist mission efforts across the United States, Canada, and their territories.

NAMB trustee chairman Bill Curtis, pastor of Cornerstone Church in Florence, S.C., greeted the missionaries, saying, "We are excited about what God is doing in your life."

Curtis noted the evening's special significance to him because one couple being commissioned, Bobby and Sandy Byrd, serve in the city where Curtis pastors. Another commissioned missionary, James Cecil, formerly served with Curtis as a NAMB trustee.

The commissioning service took place at River Oak Church in Chesapeake, a congregation planted by Dennis Culbreth, a NAMB trustee at the time who has since joined NAMB's senior leadership team.

The missionaries introduced themselves after entering the worship center carrying a flag representing a state or territory in North America. After the missionaries had entered, Wanda Lee, national Woman's Missionary Union executive director, led in a prayer of dedication asking the crowd to gather around a nearby missionary and place a hand on them in prayer.

"Our responsibility as the church," Lee said, "is to support these who have been

called out and then to go ourselves when we are called."

NAMB President Geoff Hammond noted in his commissioning sermon that he once served as a NAMB missionary in Chesapeake. "One of the greatest privileges of my life was to be appointed as a NAMB missionary," he said.

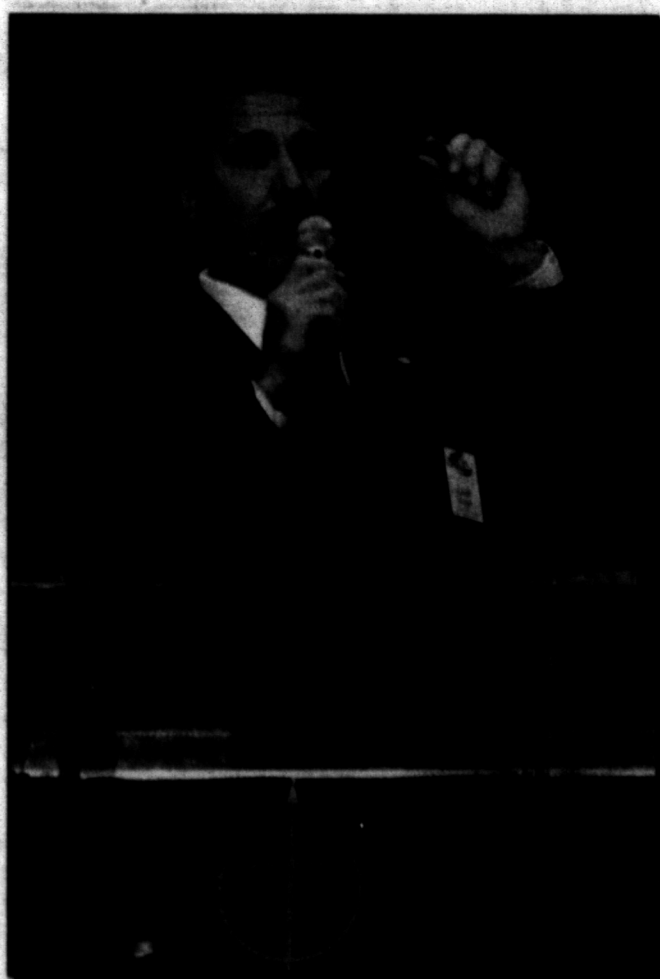
Hammond drew comparisons between the life of Daniel, the Old Testament hero, and the lives today's missionaries are called to lead. He outlined the characteristics that set Daniel apart, even as he faced life in a foreign land, serving under pagan leaders.

Hammond said those qualities of character, courage, consecration, a cross-cultural awareness, and being a catalyst for change are all needed by missionaries today as they serve across North America.

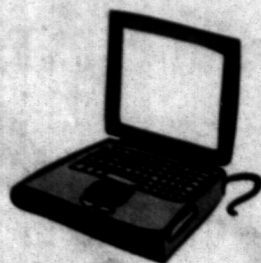
Hammond closed his sermon by challenging the audience to consider their own calling. "Is God calling you to be a missionary? Maybe it's to serve a few weeks or short term or maybe it's for a long-term role. God can use anyone. Maybe this is the night."

The 117 new missionaries join more than 5,000 already serving throughout North America. In addition, NAMB endorses more than 2,800 chaplains serving in North America and as military chaplains throughout the world.

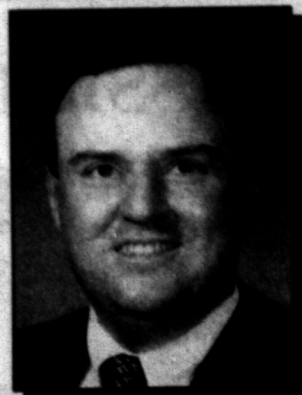
NAMB's missionary mobilization efforts in 2007 assisted more than 155,000 Southern Baptists who served on the mission field in short- and long-term capacities.



BRIGGS



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As goes California...

The California Supreme Court, in a split decision handed down on May 15, legalized homosexual marriage in the most populous state in the nation and made California the second state (behind Massachusetts) to strike down by judicial fiat the traditional definition of marriage.

The court's ruling vacated Proposition 22, a law passed in 2000 to prohibit homosexual marriage and legally define marriage as being between one man and one woman.

California voters approved Proposition 22 by a large majority of 61-39%, but the will of the people apparently carried no weight with the court.

"[W]e determine that the language of [current California law] limiting the designation of marriage to a union between a man and a woman is unconstitutional and must be stricken from the statute, and that the remaining statutory language must be understood as making the designation of marriage available both to opposite-sex and same-sex couples," Chief Justice Ronald George wrote in a 121-page opinion for the court.

The 4-3 ruling was condemned in strong language by the justices who voted in the minority.

"[A] bare majority of this court, not satisfied with the pace of democratic change, now abruptly forestalls that process and substitutes, by judicial fiat, its own social policy views for those expressed by the People themselves," Associate Justice Marvin R. Baxter wrote. "Undeterred by the strong weight of state and federal law and authority, the majority invents a new constitutional right, immune from the ordinary process of legislative consideration. The majority finds that our Constitution suddenly demands no less than a permanent redefinition of marriage, regardless of the popular will."

Another Associate Justice, Carol A. Corrigan, has identified herself as a supporter of homosexual marriage but indicated that she understood the implications of judges using their authority to overrule the express will of the people.

"Four votes on this court should not disturb the balance reached by the democratic process, a balance that is still being tested in the political arena," she wrote. "Certainly initiative measures are not immune from constitutional review. However, we should hesitate to use our authority to take one side in an ongoing political debate."

Why did the judges choose to interfere in the "ongoing political debate," as Corrigan so correctly put it? There's a simple explanation. Californians who support traditional marriage have been working for some time to get a proposed state constitution amendment on the ballot that would read, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

Traditional marriage supporters finally reached their goal after several years of hard work, and the proposed amendment will be on the ballot this November — but the California Supreme Court has now taken sides just a few months before the vote will be taken.

There has never been a clearer picture of judicial activism, defined as governing from the bench.

What does all this mean for



TO BE MARRIED? — Alice Geryalyn and Christmas Leubrie, a lesbian couple, celebrate the California Supreme Court's homosexual marriage decision on May 15 in San Francisco. Behind them is an enlarged version of a marriage license they had obtained in 2004 that was ultimately nullified. (BP photo by Kat Wade)

Mississippians? Read closely the comments of radical homosexual rights supporter Gavin Newsome, mayor of San Francisco, issued after the California Supreme Court ruling: "As California goes, so goes the rest of the nation. [Homosexual marriage nationwide is] inevitable. This door's wide open now. It's gonna happen, whether you like it or not. This is the future and it's now [in California]."

Although the voters of Mississippians have taken measures to protect the traditional definition of marriage in this state, the traditional marriage voters of California on May 15 found themselves thwarted by judicial activism.

We may believe it couldn't happen here, but if we are less than vigilant we might discover otherwise. Then there are the federal courts...

Think about it.

Based on reporting by Baptist Press.

GUEST OPINION: Churches need to protect children

By Bill Emeott
LifeWay Christian Resources
Nashville

that one out of every four girls and one out of six boys will experience some form of sexual abuse by age 18.

Churches cannot expect to remain unaffected by the problem, so what is a church to do? Everything possible to screen and monitor people who work with minors at church!

Implementing safety and security policies is no longer an option. Standard policies, including the "6/2" rule, are a must. This simple policy states that anyone working with children or youth must be an active member of your church for at least six months before assuming a position of leadership,

and that there will be at least two adults in the room with minors at all times. These easy to implement policies will go far in discouraging predators.

Next, include a volunteer worker application and follow-up interview as part of your policies. Having current and prospective leaders complete an application form and conducting formal interviews with each will show your church, your community, and possible predators that your church is watching and concerned for the safety of children.

Protection policies are incomplete without an official criminal background check.

Many insurance companies are requiring churches to complete checks as a prerequisite to coverage. Completing background checks on every adult working directly with minors demonstrates a desire and intent to protect children.

The bottom line is that it is our responsibility to protect minors at church. Yes, it may be a difficult transition and sometimes uncomfortable, but protection is not an option. The mental, emotional and spiritual development of children is at stake.

Don't ignore the possibilities. Ensure that your church is a loving and safe environment for children to grow in their relationship with their Lord and His church.

Bill Emeott is lead childhood ministry specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Nashville. For a sample Volunteer Worker Application, go to http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_CM_-_Confidential_Volunteer_Worker_Application.pdf

Britain moves on animal-human hybrids

WASHINGTON (BP) — Members of the British Parliament have handily defeated attempts to block the legalization of human-animal hybrids and "savior siblings" in a series of votes that left pro-life advocates aghast.

Acting May 19-20, the House of Commons also rejected efforts to lower the time limit for most abortions from 24 weeks and turned back an effort to prevent fertility clinics from providing their services to lesbian couples and single women without restriction.

The votes served as victories for the Labour Party-controlled government, which backed the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. Here are the vote totals on amendments to the legislation, according to Parliament's website and news reports:

- 336-176 against banning the creation of hybrid embryos by placing a human nucleus in an animal egg.

- 286-223 against prohibiting the creation of hybrid embryos by using human sperm to fertilize an animal egg, or the reverse.

- 342-163 against barring the creation of "savior siblings" in order to provide treatment to ill relatives who are a genetic match. With this method, embryos are screened to determine if they are a match to the relative, and the matching ones are then placed in the mother's womb, where if successful they will implant. The additional embryos often are destroyed.

- 292-217 and 290-222 against amendments to maintain a requirement that in vitro fertilization clinics contemplate a child's need for a father before providing services.

- 304-233 against reducing the upper limit at which women

may have abortions from 24 to 22 weeks.

- 332-190 against lowering the limit to 20 weeks.

- 387-84 against cutting the limit to 16 weeks.

- 393-71 against reducing the limit to 12 weeks.

Southern Baptist bioethicist C. Ben Mitchell decried the actions.

"The irony is that while some MPs are trying to roll back the legal limit on abortions, others have been working hard to permit the destruction of human embryos in research. It's nothing less than political schizophrenia," said Mitchell, director of the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity in suburban Chicago and a consultant to the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville.

Human-animal hybrid embryos are created to produce stem cells for research into treating numerous afflictions. Researchers typically permit them to mature to six days of age before extracting stem cells for experimentation. The removal of stem cells kills the embryo.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) announced in January it had approved licenses for two groups of scientists to create human-animal hybrids for research.

Scientists at Newcastle University announced April 1 they had created cytoplasmic hybrids, or "cybrids," by placing human nuclei into empty cow eggs. The "cybrids" were described as 99.9% human.

There is a ban on permitting the embryos to grow beyond 14 days or to implant them in the womb of a human being or animal, according to The Times of London.

"The U.K. continues to maintain its infamous lead in promiscuous, embryo-destructive research," Mitchell said. "Permission to create human-animal hybrids should not be a surprise from the culture that gave us the Frankenstein story. The HFEA's technological hubris clearly exceeded its ethical grasp."

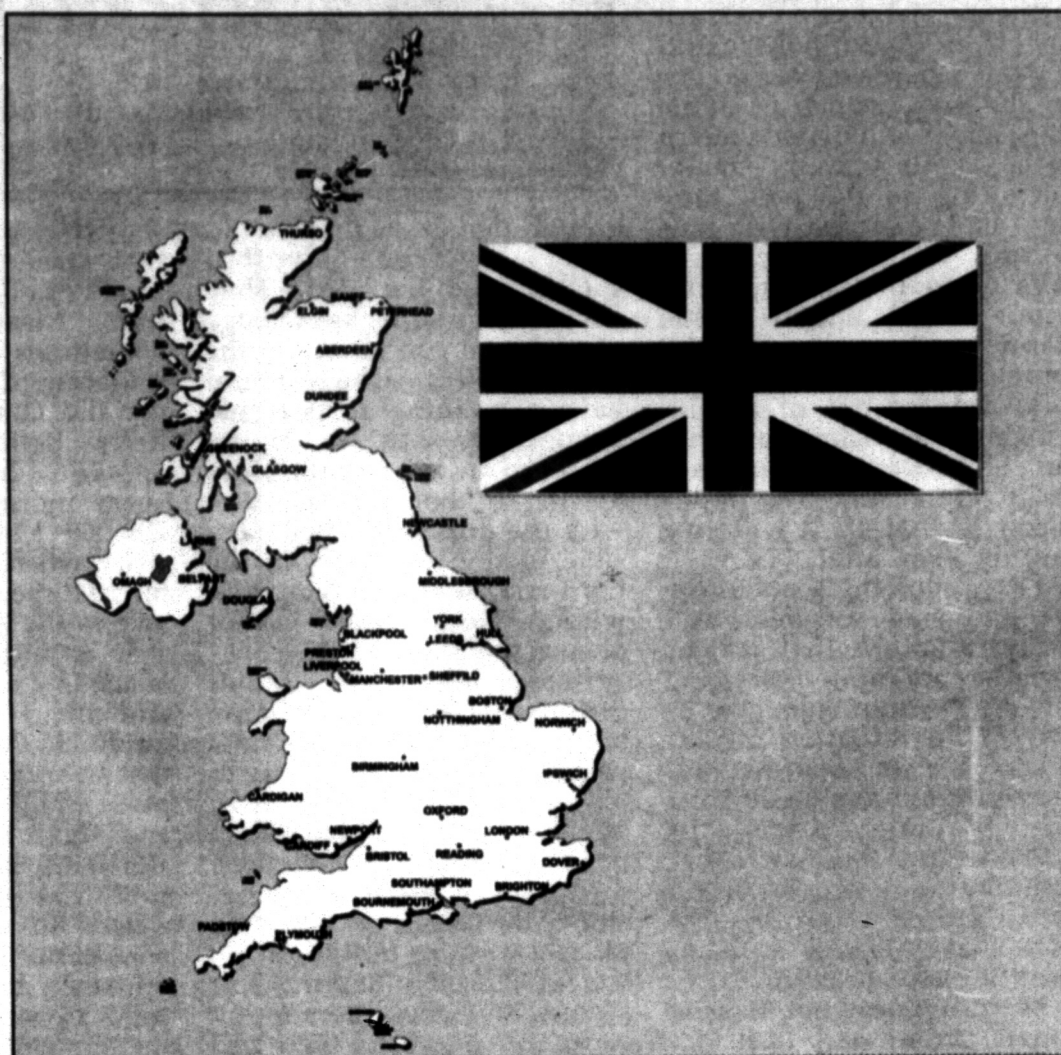
R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said the votes showed the government had "unleashed the hounds of biomedical and cultural revolution."

Of the vote to give lesbian couples the same access to fertility treatments as heterosexual couples, Mohler wrote May 21 on his weblog,

"The subversion of the role of fathers is nothing new and this British move is just another monumental loss for children. Our societies are straining under the weight of father absence and unfaithful or disengaged fathers."

Legislation to ban the creation of human-animal hybrids in the United States has been introduced in Congress but has made no progress.

Sens. Sam Brownback (R.-Kn.) and Mary Landrieu (D-La.) are sponsoring the Human-animal Hybrid Prohibition Act in the Senate, Rep. Chris Smith (R.-N.J.), is the author of a companion bill in the House of Representatives that is moving at the same time as the Senate proposal.



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Co. steps forward

DENVER (BP) — Colorado, the first state that decriminalized abortion, could strike at the heart of Roe v. Wade this fall if voters adopt a proposed constitutional amendment that gives protections to people from the moment of conception. Colorado for Equal Rights, the group behind the amendment, turned in approximately 131,000 signatures on May 13, significantly more than the 76,000 needed. The signatures have yet to be validated, although it appears supporters have more than enough. The core of the proposed amendment is only 15 words and states, "The term 'person' or 'persons' shall include any human being from the moment of conception." The personhood debate is significant: In the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, writing for the majority, stated that if personhood for the unborn is established, then the case for abortion "collapses" because "the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the [Fourteenth] Amendment." Although the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973, seven years earlier, in 1967, Colorado decriminalized abortion in cases of rape, incest, the health of the mother or in cases when the unborn baby was disabled. The proposed amendment will draw organizations nationwide from both sides of the debate and likely will cost millions of dollars. One opposition group, known as Protect Families, Protect Choice, is asserting that the amendment not only will ban abortion but also fertility treatments and certain types of birth control.

Looking back

10 years ago

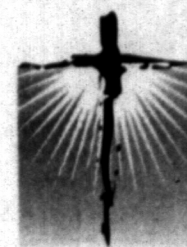
Billy Graham acknowledges that his days as an evangelist are numbered, but he expresses his confidence in his named successor, his son, Franklin Graham.

20 years ago

Warren County Baptists act to remove triple x-rated videos from seven area video rental stores. A resolution sent to all association churches ask Baptists to express to store owners their opposition to the videos. If that is not effective, Warren County Baptists say, they will consider a boycott.

50 years ago

A gift of \$50,000 from Will and Anna Ward Aven Whittington is announced at the Mississippi College commencement exercises recently. The gift will go toward equipment for the new Fine Arts building of the college.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Bibliocipher

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FD LAKT PU RCZP LAML
PU XZIU LAU HAKXJYUC
ZV BZJ, PAUC PU XZIU
BZJ, MCJ RUUW AKT
HZGGMCJGUCLT.
VKYTL QZAC VKIU:LPZ

Clue: : B = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Peter Two Twenty.



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

WWW.CHURCHHARMONY.COM

Like me, you probably have heard these ads on television or radio concerning a variety of matchmaker kind of deals where you can go out on the web, punch in some stats, and it will match you up with your soul mate. According to the ads, they have a lot of success with connecting folks. Personally, I have never met anyone who found their intended in this manner. According to the commercials, it takes all of the awkwardness out of a relationship and makes sure that the significant things are effectively joined. The implication is that they will live happily ever after. Now, it just says something about my age and stage of life but I always thought that it was considerably more interesting and much more enjoyable to analyze the situation in person rather than having a computer programmed to do it for you. Still, as you know, as with so many things whether it is finding a job, finding a mate, finding a doctor, or a motel that suits you, the computer is the place to go.

Recently, one of our associational missions directors asked me why we could not come up with a computer program that would enable us to match churches with pastors and or staff that would be in harmony and effective. I suppose we could call it www.churchharmony.com. Apparently, we need something like that because there are so many churches, pastors, and staff that are in conflict. There are clashes taking place over ideas or personalities that do not seem to be in harmony with Scripture or the plan of God. It is no easy process to make ideal connections either in a marriage or in a church and pastor relationship.

We are all about as naive as the young couple getting married thinking all is going to be blissful and filled with everyday delights, only to find out that all is not quite as pleasant and peaceful as they thought it would be. When it comes to the church and pastor there is some common



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

ground that exists that should help. Everyone involved should know the Lord. They should have some knowledge of and total confidence in the Word of God. They should have a meaningful, personal connection with the living presence of God and the Holy Spirit. If that is true, even with the difficulties it is possible to find harmony in the Lord and success in Kingdom work. However, it is not always that way.

Baptist life has its complications. Can you imagine how difficult it immediately becomes if anybody wants to tell any Baptist how they ought to go about connecting or who should be called as their pastor? On the other side of the coin try to tell some preacher where he should go and what he should do. All of a sudden when somebody starts trying to force their will on Baptists all of their spiritual sensors connected to their belief in the priesthood of the believer and their understanding of Scripture that they have soul competency kick in and in no time at all it looks like you are herding cats on steroids. That is to say, that you can package all of the harmonious elements you want to into a computer chip and you can mail out DVDs to every church in the convention on a weekly basis and they are not going to be told what they have got to do. At times that is a good thing and at other times it may not look so good, but it is always a scriptural thing.

As Baptists, we fervently and faithfully hold to the truth taught in God's Word that if someone is going to tell us what to do, to be, or give us instructions for life it is going to be under the reign of the lordship of Jesus. It seems like at least once a week

someone tells me something that goes like this, "I don't understand why you don't tell these preachers..." Sometimes it begins, "I don't understand why you don't tell the churches..." Some folks believe that I am appointed by God to wake up every morning and tell over 700,000 Mississippi Baptists what, when, and how. Not so, for like me, they are answerable to the living Lord.

It would seem that since Jesus is Lord of the church and the Holy Spirit is the guide of the people of God that everything would fall in place and those congregations and their leaders would be joined up in a right relationship that would move forward. In a perfect spiritual world, no doubt that would be true. In a world that is upset by sin, warped by personal agendas and ambitions, and at times clouded by our own misunderstandings and arrogance, it just does not happen. So then how can we have church harmony and provide compatibility that would be helpful? Here are four areas of concern.

1. Attitude and integration — I am pointing to how a pastor or staff member is integrated into life itself. Are they "people-persons" or is there a gross insensitivity to the needs, concerns, and burdens that other people bear? While most of the time background checks on possible staff workers have to do with looking to see if there is some dark cloud or evil thing that exists, more often than not it could be the most revealing about how they relate to people. How does their lifestyle touch people? Do they care about people? The Bible says that a servant of God is supposed to be given to hospitality. This is the direct connection with

being involved with people. There are people in ministry who literally love the ministry but do not enjoy being involved with people. As a general rule, that lends itself to difficulties.

2. Bible and interpretation — Generally speaking, where does the person stand theologically? What is his position on major issues and how does he regard the Word of God? If he does not hold a high, honorable view of Scripture, most Baptist churches are going to have a tough, tough time. We are people of the Book. We believe the Book, want to follow the Book, and want to hear someone read the Word from God out of that Holy Book.

3. Commission and implementation — Simply stated, how does the potential pastor or staff member feel about Jesus' commission and how do they go about living it out? It is revealing to talk to them about their own personal witness and that witness being extended to the community and to the world.

4. Devotion and inspiration — This final issue may be the most revealing, and at the same time the most simplistic thing that you will talk to the person about, because it is their personal experience with Jesus. It is how on a day-to-day basis they get up every day and face life's experiences with Jesus to guide, inspire, bless, and use them. It is simply a picture of their daily walk with Jesus. If a person is not walking with Him, it is doubtful that he can lead others to His side. If he is walking side by side with Jesus, it is a beautiful picture of inspiration to see, hear, and feel.

It is doubtful that www.churchharmony.com will ever be implemented, but at least we have some channels of thought I believe God can use to help us better connect and stay joined as we seek to reach a world for Christ.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

1. **First Church, Glendale:** June 1 - 6, 5:30 - 8:15 p.m.; for information call (601) 544-0414.
2. **Rocky Point Church, Leake County:** June 2 - 6, 9 a.m. - noon; commencement, June 8, 6 p.m.
3. **New Hope Church, Foxworth:** June 23 - 27, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
4. **Oak Grove Church, Prentiss:** June 2 - 6, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., for children preschool through 6th grade.
5. **South McComb Church, McComb:** June 8 - 12, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
6. **Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg:** June 9 - 13, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.; for registration and information, call (601) 296-0555.
7. **Fernwood Church, Gulfport:** June 23 - 27, 5:40 - 8:30 p.m.; preschool to 6th grade; for information call (228) 896-4556.
8. **Hickory Grove Church, Sumrall:** June 9 - 13, 6 - 8:30 p.m.; K - 6th grade; for information call (601) 579-0307 or 758-4448.
9. **Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg:** June 8 - 13, 6 - 8:30 p.m.; 4 year-olds - 6th grade.
10. **Stanton Church, Natchez:** June 2 - 6; 9 a.m. - noon; 4-year-olds - 6th grade.
11. **Harrisville Church, Simpson Association:** June 2 - 6, 8:30 a.m. - noon; for information call (601) 847-1593.



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Summer 2008

The Grace of Giving: Windows of Opportunity...Showers of Blessing

Writing to the church in Corinth, the apostle Paul admonished the Corinthian Christians to consider financial stewardship equal in importance to the many other areas or purposeful Christian living. To this end he stated, *"But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving...Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it...For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have"* (2 Corinthians 8:7, 10-12). Perhaps Paul sought to remind the church at Corinth the truths presented in Malachi 3:8-10 that no one can outgive God who honors faithfulness by throwing open the windows of heaven and pouring out showers of blessing.

As I near the completion of my fourth year as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, I am reminded again and again how the Lord is working in the lives of His people in the area

of personal finances and giving. Regularly, inquiries come to the Foundation about the establishment of an endowment for scholarships or missions, the benefits of a life-income arrangement, or for information regarding the use of a Last Will and Testament for impacting the Kingdom. What I have learned from visiting with folks about their stewardship and estate-planning goals is that the Foundation has the unique privilege and responsibility to be a resource to help individuals excel in the grace of giving by identifying "windows of opportunity" through which showers of blessing may be experienced in their lives. One of these windows of opportunity is a charitable gift annuity. This edition of *Foundation News* seeks to highlight the special features of this unique life-income arrangement.



Daniel Hall
Executive Director
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

Charitable Gift Annuities: A Window to a Lasting Legacy

Because Webster's dictionary defines a gift as "something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation" and an annuity "a sum of money payable yearly or at some other regular intervals," the combined term "gift annuity" might be construed as an oxymoron. In other words, how can something that is transferred voluntarily without compensation offer an annual income? Just what is a gift annuity?

Good questions! Here is how a charitable gift annuity works. A charitable gift annuity is an agreement between an individual and a qualified charitable organization such as the MBF. Within the agreement, an exchange is made between the donor and the charity whereby the donor offers cash or non-cash assets (stocks, mutual funds, etc.) and the donor receives a guaranteed fixed income each year for life. At the death of the donor(s), the funds remaining in the corpus of the gift annuity are available for the charity selected by the donor. When established through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, a charitable gift annuity becomes an extraordinary way to increase annual income, receive favorable tax treatment, and excel in the grace of giving by leaving a lasting legacy for Baptist ministries of the donor's choosing.



THE ADVANTAGES OF A GIFT ANNUITY MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

- **Income for Life** — The donor receives a guaranteed fixed income for life with payout rates for one or two people.
- **Tax Deduction** — A large part of the donor's transfer is deductible as a charitable gift.
- **Tax-free Income** — Not only does the donor receive a tax deduction for establishing the gift annuity and an income for life, but a portion of the annual payments are tax-free also. Thus, the real percentage yield is higher than the stated distribution rate.
- **Capital Gains Savings** — The potential impact of capital gains tax for appreciated assets such as stocks is minimized when the donor funds the gift annuity by transferring securities to the charity.
- **Flexibility** — The donor may choose the frequency of their payments. While payments are often made on a quarterly basis, payments also can be made monthly, semi-annually, or annually. In addition to the various payment frequency options, one person or two-person annuities may be selected. Furthermore, cash or non-cash assets may be utilized to establish the gift annuity. Cash gifts are the most beneficial in terms of tax-free income while gifts of securities (stocks) allow the donor to reduce their capital gains taxes.
- **Personal Satisfaction** — The donor has the satisfaction of knowing that their generosity will continue to make a lasting impact even after the Lord calls them to "higher" service with Him.

CDs into Gift Annuities

One source of retirement income for many people is the interest earned on Certificates of Deposit issued by a bank. Current interest rates at some of the large banks in Mississippi range from 1.75%-3.0% for six months to 2.25%-4.5% for five-year CDs. In a low interest rate environment, CDs may actually deliver negative yields when taxes and inflation are taken into consideration. If you have CDs near maturity, you may want to convert the CD funds into a charitable gift annuity. Not only does a gift annuity offer a higher distribution percentage than the current CD rates, but donor receives a portion of the income on a tax-free basis. In addition, a partial charitable deduction is allowed for income tax purposes.

EXAMPLE: Mary is a 75-year old widow who uses CDs to supplement her Social Security income. She has a \$10,000 CD scheduled to mature in a few days and she thinks that her bank will renew the CD for 5 years at 4%. Thus, she will receive \$400 per year for the next five years. After factoring in taxes and the rate of inflation, Mary determined that the real rate of return for her money is near 0%.

Mary has been thinking about leaving at least \$10,000 in her will to benefit missions through the International Mission Board and the Cooperative Program. After reading about the benefits of a charitable gift annuity, Mary recognized that her current financial needs and her charitable goals for the future can be realized through a gift annuity.

For a gift of \$10,000, Mary will receive an annual income of \$710 (7.1%) of which \$489.90 will be tax free. Since Mary is in a 25% income tax bracket, the tax-free component of the income stream increases the rate of return to nearly 9% on a taxable equivalent basis! In other words, Mary would need to receive approximately 9% on a CD or other taxable alternative to realize the same return offered through a gift annuity. In addition to the increased income available through a gift annuity, Mary will benefit from a charitable deduction for income tax purposes in the amount of \$3,929.20.

Beyond the financial advantages that a gift annuity can provide, perhaps the greatest benefit that Mary will receive from establishing a charitable gift annuity is the joy of knowing that her gift will impact the Kingdom beyond her lifetime. When her CD matured, Mary utilized the services of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation for assistance with a gift annuity.

Bethel and Sara Ferguson



Bethel and Sara Ferguson have shared their lives with each other and their love for the Lord together for nearly 65 years. Because of his love for Sara, Bethel wanted to ensure that she would have adequate financial support for her lifetime should he predecease her. Following the recommendation of his accountant, Bethel called the Mississippi Baptist Foundation in the Fall of 2004 to inquire about gift annuities. The result of that phone conversation and subsequent visits with Foundation staff was a series of gift annuities over the next three years that offer tax advantages for the Fergusons, a monthly income stream for Sara's lifetime, and the satisfaction of knowing that the eventual "Bethel and Sara W. Ferguson Memorial Fund" will provide perpetual resources for Baptist causes. By opening the windows of opportunity offered through the Foundation, Bethel and Sara are receiving showers of blessing as they excel in the grace of giving.

How Are Gift Annuity Rates Determined?

The gift annuity rate is an actuarial calculation based on the life expectancy of a donor, assumed rates of investment returns over the donor's life expectancy, and the anticipated residual dollars available for charity at the end of the donor's life. Each qualified charitable

organization determines the appropriate rate for a particular gift based on a combination of these factors. For the purposes of illustration, however, the distribution rates published as a guideline by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) are presented in this newsletter.

Benefits of a \$10,000 Charitable Gift Annuity

Age	Rate	Gift	Income	Charitable Deduction	Net Income
90+	11.30%	\$ 1,130.00	\$ 913.04	\$ 216.96	\$ 5,526.90
85	9.50%	\$ 950.00	\$ 739.10	\$ 210.90	\$ 4,974.40
80	8.00%	\$ 800.00	\$ 582.40	\$ 217.60	\$ 4,527.90
75	7.10%	\$ 710.00	\$ 489.90	\$ 220.10	\$ 3,929.20
70	6.50%	\$ 650.00	\$ 421.20	\$ 228.80	\$ 3,299.90
65	6.00%	\$ 600.00	\$ 364.80	\$ 235.20	\$ 2,742.20
60	5.70%	\$ 570.00	\$ 327.18	\$ 248.82	\$ 2,112.40

Save Twice with Gifts of Securities

Securities (stocks, mutual funds, etc.) that have increased in value since the time they were acquired may provide special advantages when given to fund a gift annuity. Suppose stock that you acquired a few years ago for \$6,000 has increased in value by \$4,000 and now has a market value of \$10,000. If you decided to sell the stock, a tax burden on the entire \$4,000 gain would result. If, however, you transferred the

stock to establish a gift annuity, a portion of the capital gains taxes can be avoided. Suppose your charitable deduction was 40% of the \$10,000 you gave. You would avoid tax on 40% of the \$4,000 gain and the remaining capital gain could be reported on a prorated basis over your life expectancy. Thus, making a gift of appreciated securities offers both income tax and capital gains tax savings which is twice as nice!

The relationship between Virginia Williams and the Mississippi Baptist Foundation began in 1993 when Virginia's husband, Rev. Thomas Williams, established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust through the Foundation. This trust provides income for Virginia during her lifetime and then will provide financial support for seminaries and new church starts. Later, in 2002, Rev. Williams established a scholarship fund for ministerial students with the Foundation.

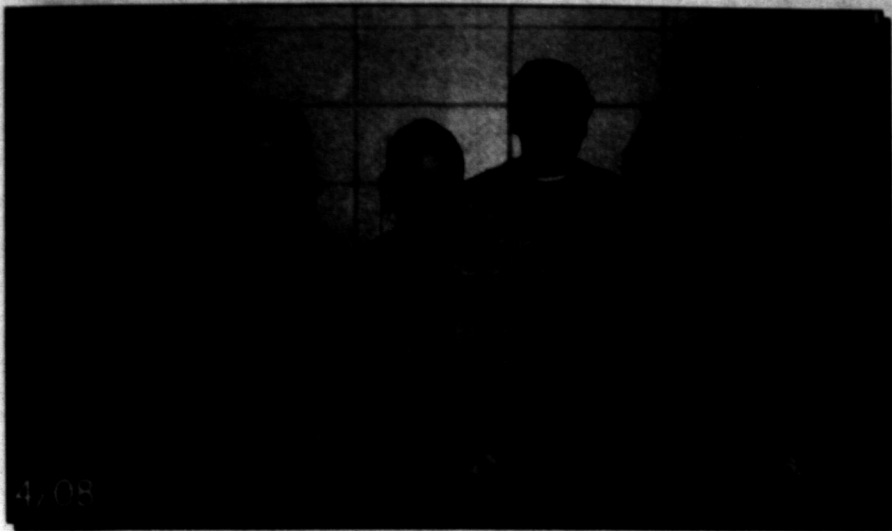
Virginia's ongoing relationship with and confidence in the Foundation's ministry prompted her to establish an additional life-income arrangement in the form of a gift annuity. Virginia funded this new account through a gift of stock that had appreciated in value. By transferring this

appreciated asset to the MBF, Virginia not only was able to minimize the potential impact of capital gains taxes, but she also received a charitable deduction for income tax purposes. Additionally, the tax-free portion of the annual income means that Virginia will enjoy a taxable equivalent rate of return much higher than CDs currently offer. By partnering with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation as a "laborer together with God," a window of opportunity was opened for Virginia Williams through which she can experience showers of blessing as she continues to excel in the grace of giving.

For more information on the windows of opportunity available through Mississippi Baptist Foundation, please call 601-292-3210 or dhall@mbcb.org.



BIBLE DRILL



1a. Enterprise Church, Enterprise



1b. Enterprise Church, Enterprise

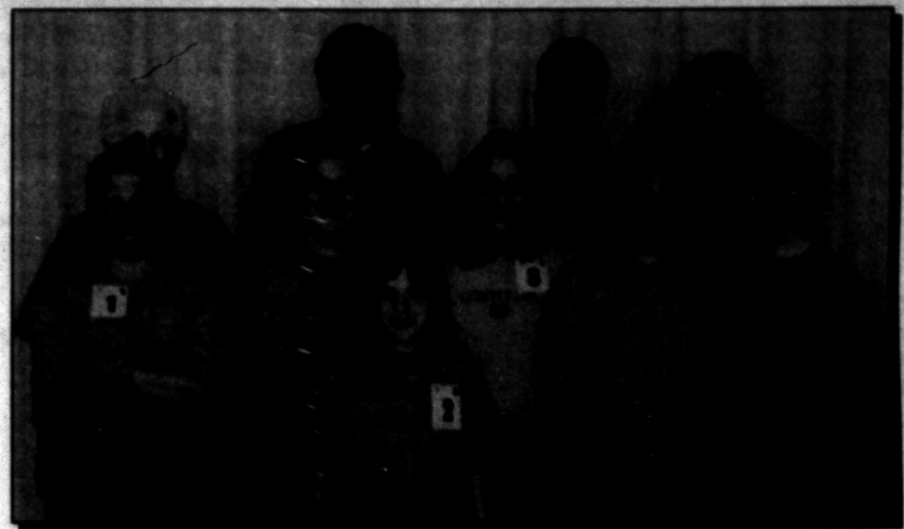
1. **Enterprise Church, Enterprise**, recognizes its youth Bible drillers: Bethany Mercer, Andi Katherine Kersh, Lindsey Mercer, Tyler Burgess, Haley Mercer, and Haley Harper; and its children's drillers: Madison Smith and Caleb Mercer.

2. **Drew Church, Drew**, recognizes its Bible drillers: Heather McCool, Kaci Mosco, Katherine Phillips, Rachel Sumner, Kayla Burchfield, Jon-Paul Phillips, Mary Kathryn Kittrell, Joseph Cummins, Matt McCool, and LeAnn Cummins.

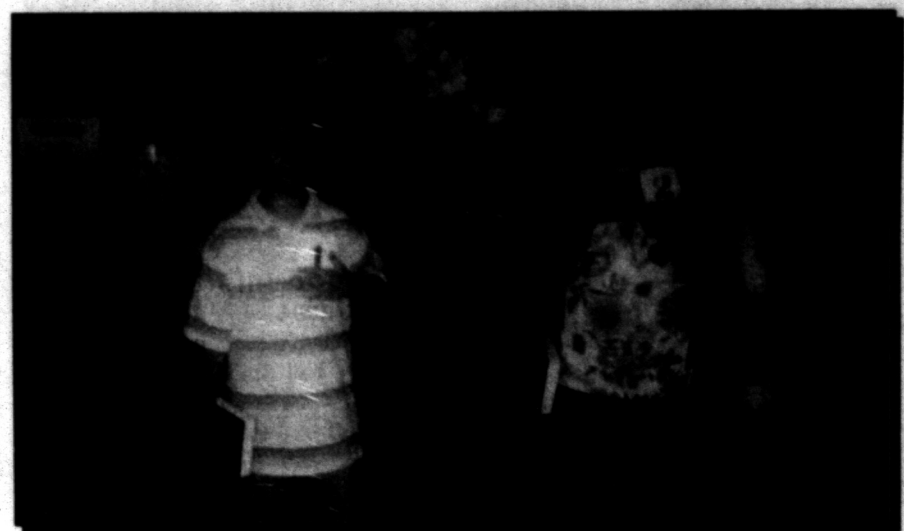
3. **Horton Memorial Church, Pontotoc Association**, recognizes its Bible drillers: Adam Wilder and Abby Wilder.

4. **Morgantown Church, Natchez**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Front row, Andrew Allen, Melissa Carter, and Mary Leslie Geter; back row, Jennifer Carter, Lacie Hicks, Justin Hicks, and Zack Smith.

5. **McAdams Church, Macedonia**, recognizes its Bible Buddies: Hayden Johnson, Patrick Gowan, Dusty Moss, Brady Moss, and Hannah Johnson.



2. Drew Church, Drew



3. Horton Memorial Church, Pontotoc Association



4. Morgantown Church, Natchez



5. McAdams Church, Macedonia

New Genesis Heavenly Journey's 6th Anniversary Gospel Jubilee

Saturday June 14, 2008
Attala Co. Coliseum
Kosciusko, Ms.

Doors open at 5:00PM & Concert begins at 6:00PM
There will also be Gospel Trivia with prizes from 5:30-5:55

Featuring Artists Such As
Dayspring, Voices of Faith, Heavenly Journey, Master Plan,
Psalms Trio,

New Genesis, Hearts Desire, One Way, Joyful Noise,
and many more from all over Mississippi

With Special guest:

New Liberty Quartet from Monroe, La.

The Masters of Ceremonies will be Frank & Mike from the
American Family Radio station, WCSO

Tickets \$8.00 in advance - \$10.00 at the door - 10 and under Free
For more information on this event or to order tickets
Call Tim Hendricks (601) 953-5873

NOBTS extension offers summer class

New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) Jackson Extension Center will offer the class, Preaching/Teaching from Genesis and Exodus, (CMCM 3317) on July 7-11 at Broadmoor Church, Madison.

Specifically for associate's and bachelor's degree students, the class meets Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mark Byrd, associate pastor of membership at First Church, Jackson, will teach the course.

The deadline to register for the course is the week of June 9. The course is \$170 per credit hour for Southern Baptist students and \$230 for others. Payment is due upon enrollment.

Interested students may contact extension center director Julius Thompson for an enrollment sheet and syllabus by phone at (601) 856-4341, or by e-mail at Thompson.Julius@att.net.



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THE LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN BEACH Retreat and Conference Center, Orange Beach, Alabama. Directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Ideal for church beach retreats. From 10 to 150 people, \$30 per night per person. A ministry of Romar Beach Baptist Church. Call Don at 251-752-2366.

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GULF SHORES VACATION HOME: last minute Summer specials from \$699/wk. Large 3BR/2BA Home. Sleeps 12 in beds. New game room. Call 225-241-5667 or visit www.gsfamilyretreat.com.

NEED A HOUSE SITTER? (Hattiesburg area) Going on a short/long term trip. We will sit your house for you and pay you to do it. Reason: to be near our grandchildren in Lamar county. Explicit references provided on request, retired and available anytime, 601-924-5382 or sdj987@aol.com.

FOR SALE: 2006 INDIES MODULAR home, 32X64, 3 bedroom. Two bath, 601-426-9610 or 601-649-4938.

FOR SALE: 2004 E450 26 PASSENGER bus, 13K miles, diesel engine. Formore information, call Brad Crowder at 662-620-5155.

DELAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, Yalobusha Association is in need of six, 7ft long pews. If your church has used pews, we would be interested in purchasing them. Please contact pastor Donald Miller at 601-473-2292 or Kathleen Fly at 601-473-4262.

FBC ZACHARY, LOUISIANA IS NOW seeking resumes for associate pastor of worship. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, 4200 Main Street, Zachary, LA 70791 or dwilliams@fbcz.org.

COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH IN Collierville, Tenn., a traditional conservative Southern Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a full-time minister of education. For further information, see www.covenantontheweb.org. Email resume to office@covenantontheweb.org or mail to Dr. Sam Brassell, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027 by June 16, 2008.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

CONDO IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT: 2 bedrm, 2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$70.00/night. Call for information 281-855-4469 or 832-922-0101/0141. Email pdiw4760@att.net.

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

MS POSITIONS

FBC OF EUPORA, MISS. IS NOW accepting resumes for the position of youth minister. Send resumes to fbceyouth@gmail.com. or FBC-Search, P.O. Box 268, Eupora, MS 39744.

WANTED: PINEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Clinton, MS is seeking individual for part-time interim minister of music or part-time minister of music for blended Worship service. Please send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Road, Clinton, MS 39056 or email to Pineviewbc@bellsouth.net. Or fax your resume to 601-924-8378.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resume to personnel committee, 712 McAllister St., Greenville, MS 38701, or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC: Gillsburg Baptist Church, Gillsburg, Miss., searching for a minister of music. Mail resumes for this position or the interim position to Chris Teasley at 6126 MS Hwy 568, Osyka, MS, 39657 or call 601 542-1230.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. North Winona Baptist Church, Winona, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resume to North Winona Baptist Church, attn: music search committee, 602 Alberta Drive, Winona, MS 38967. Or email to nwbc@duckwood.net.

MCHENRY FBC, IS CURRENTLY SEEKING a music minister/worship leader. Interested parties are encouraged to email the church, mchenryfbc@bellsouth.net. For more information, Or you may call the church at 601-928-4644.

TWO POSITIONS: CENTRAL BAPTIST Church, Brookhaven, Miss., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music/outreach & full-time minister of students/college. Send resumes to 749 N. Jackson Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601 or email to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org.

WHITE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGEE, Miss., is seeking a part-time director of student ministries and activities to focus on the spiritual needs of children and youth and coordinate ministry programs and activities related to the student ministry. Please send resumes attn: student minister to whiteoakbc@gmail.com.

FBC CORINTH, MISS., IS SEEKING A full-time minister of preschool & children. Send resume to FBC, c/o search committee, 501 Main St., Corinth, MS 38834.

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, MARSHALL County, Miss. Seeking part-time youth director with potential for growth. Please send resume to search committee, P.O. Box 734, Potts Camp, MS 38659.

In God We Trust Tour

July 11-19, 2008

(reg. by May 31)

U.S. Capitol, Whitehouse (outside), Pentagon, Marine Corp Band at Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian, Union Station, Mt. Vernon, Supreme Court, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, Iwo Jima & WWII Memorials, Colonial Williamsburg, Fogo de Chao, and much more!

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July	11-19	Washington DC & Williamsburg
July	30-Aug 2	Promise Keepers Plus Adventure Atlanta
Sept.	10-14	National Quartet Convention-Louisville
Sept.	25-27	Women of Faith-Atlanta
Oct.	6-16	Rural New England in the Fall (limited seats)
Nov.	7-21	Christmas in Branson
Dec.	1-6	Christmas in the Smokies (limited seats)
Dec.	15-18	Opryland Christmas-Nashville

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COLLEGE NEWS

1. Guider

1. **Mississippi College** junior Meredith Guider, Utica, earned a fourth-place finish out of 18 in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's competition in Los Angeles recently.

2. The Bobby Halford Summer Baseball Camps will be held on the William Carey University campus in Hattiesburg. Youngsters ages 7-12 may choose to attend a camp June 9-13 or June 23-27. The camp for ages 13-17 will be conducted June 30-July 2. All camps will be held from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. each day. The cost is \$140 and includes instruction, camp T-shirt, and noon meals. Applications may be obtained by calling the baseball office at (601) 318-6110 or the external relations office at 318-6192, or by email bhalford@wmcarey.edu.

3. **Mississippi College** graduates and other supporters of the Christian university in Clinton will meet at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis at the Indiana Convention Center on June 10. The two-hour event begins at 8 p.m. in the Sagamore Ballroom One in the building's second level. President Lee Royce will be among the speakers at the social gathering that features chocolate river cookies, brownies and fruit. There is no admission charge.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Your Ticket to Real Success

Proverbs 1:1-7; 2:4-8; 3:5-6, 11-12

By Janice H. Fortenberry

I looked at my friend's face and knew immediately that she needed a hug. Sure enough, I no sooner wrapped my arms around her than I felt warm tears trickle from her cheek to mine. This woman recently retired after 30 years as the director of special education in a large school system. Her responsibilities were huge and, by the world's standards, she is the epitome of success. So why was she crying?

As a born again Christian, she knows the urgency of never becoming comfortable where she is. She knows that true success is a moment-by-moment, day-by-day standard of how Godly we are or aren't. She is still a work in progress.

The lessons this quarter are from Proverbs, a collection of wise sayings written for the most part by Israel's King Solomon. The son of David and Bathsheba, King Solomon was known for his wisdom, even though toward the end of his life he (like many of us) didn't always live up to his own high standards (see I Kings 11:1-13). The first seven verses (Prov. 1:1-7) actually sum up the entire collection: The proverbs are recorded to teach us the wisdom and common sense to guide our relationship with God and with each other. The proverbs offer a guaranteed recipe for successful living.

The first step to real success is to fear the Lord. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowl-



Fortenberry

edge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." (Prov. 1:7 NIV) This notion of fearing God is a hard concept for even the most seasoned disciple.

It took me years to realize that fearing God is really standing in awe of Him with a sobering respect for His greatness. And, to the extent that I can "get this," it draws me toward Him with a reverence and humility that immediately puts into perspective what's important and what's not.

As King Solomon put it, these two together — a respect for the Lord and a yearning to obey — are the beginning of wisdom.

Today's world is literally bursting with knowledge. New facts bombard us each day. I teach anatomy and physiology to college students and I study as hard as they do to keep abreast of new information. But it seems as if the explosion of ideas these days is surpassed only by the glaring scarcity of wisdom. Wisdom has been

described as "true knowledge." In Proverbs, wisdom is often referred to as a woman who was with God before he began to create the world (8:22). Throughout the Old Testament, wisdom embodied following the commands God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. Paul tells us in Colossians 2:3 that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ. If we know Him, we have complete understanding and "know the mystery of God." (NIV)

According to Proverbs, wisdom is a gift from God. Whether we accept it and pursue it and practice it, however, is entirely up to us. Those of us who do are wise and those who don't are described as foolish. Can't you spot the folks who are truly wise? I can. Their behavior is guided by a rich, deep sense of "true north."

Just watch them and you see extraordinary common sense anchored by justice, honesty, fairness, discernment, loyalty, and stable footing in all circumstances. No wonder Solomon wrote in Prov. 2:4 that we are to search

for wisdom as if it were a hidden treasure.

"For wisdom will enter you heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you and understanding will guard you." (2:10-11 NIV) This does not mean our days will be insulated and carefree. We are still subject to the imperfect world we live in, not to mention the correction of the Lord when we make unwise decisions (3:11-12).

Go back for a minute to my friend who was in distress. As she looked at herself that day, she saw motives that weren't right, attitudes that weren't appropriate and loyalties that were skewed. God made her aware of them and she was struggling to correct them. This woman is one of the most successful persons I know and it has nothing to do with the titles behind her name or how much money she made. Her success is a result of how well she tends the gift of wisdom God gave her. We should do no less.

Fortenberry is a member of First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Empowered to Witness

Acts 1:1- 2:247

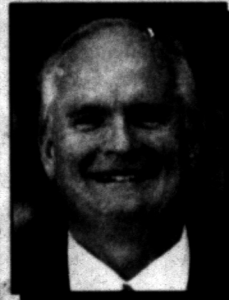
By W. Wayne VanHorn

Without power, nothing is possible. Power is a part of everyday life. The cars we drive to work each day are driven by a powertrain. The electricity we use to dry our hair, to read by lamplight, or to watch TV, comes from the power company. We need power to wash our clothes, to cook our food, and to do our jobs. Power enables us to accomplish the important things of life.

Jesus impressed upon his disciples that witnessing was an important part of their lives as believers. To be successful they needed the right kind of power to be what he wanted them to be, his "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (1:8; NIV).

1. We Need Power (Acts 1:4-8)

When Luke wrote the Book of Acts, he sought to demonstrate how the apostles carried on the Lord's ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit. Luke began his historical narrative by relating how Jesus spent 40 post-resurrection days speaking to his disciples about the kingdom of God. Thus, the power of the Holy Spirit Luke described has everything to do with Jesus' disciples accomplishing kingdom work then and now. The priority work of the kingdom is for every believer to witness to others about the life changing difference Jesus makes. How can a regular person know what to say, when to say it, and how to say it? Jesus' answer focused on the promised gift of the Holy Spirit from Father God (1:4). The disciples would be baptized, that is total-



VanHorn

ly immersed, in the Spirit. The disciples' question in 1:6 revealed their narrow application of the concept of the kingdom of God to the nation of Israel. The Holy Spirit would empower them to embrace God's much larger plan. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to embrace God's kingdom building work today.

2. We Can Have Power (Acts 2:1-4)

Pentecost, one of three major feasts Jewish men were to attend (Deut. 16:16), was the perfect occasion for God to give his power to the effort of witnessing through the disciples. They heard something, the sound like the blowing of a violent wind. They saw something, what seemed to be tongues of fire. They also experienced something; they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. This threefold aspect of the sending of the Spirit, hearing, seeing, experiencing, testifies to the overwhelming way God chose to

empower his disciples to become witnesses. God desires all of his children to experience his Spirit-empowerment for witnessing. Luke revealed this desire by indicating, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..." (2:4a; NIV). We can have this same power today.

3. We Can Use Power (Acts 2:5-6)

Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks, was a nationally celebrated festival marking the first fruits of the harvest in late May or early June. Jewish men were required by the Law of Moses to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival (Deut. 16). God's selection of this event was appropriate because a large number of Jews from all nations would be in Jerusalem. By sending the Spirit at that time, the message about Jesus was heard by people from all over the Roman Empire. Thus the disciples were empowered to share the good news, others heard, and people were saved. The first fruits of the Church were harvested that day. God's harvest continues today as we use his power to share Christ with others.

4. We Can See Power at Work (Acts 2:37-41)

The addition of 3,000 people to the Church on Pentecost demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit to convict people of sin. Before they could be saved, people had to repent of their sins, an aspect of the Gospel too frequently omitted in today's preaching. Peter and the other apostles encouraged their audience to be baptized after they repented. Baptism symbolized the death and burial of their old selves and their resurrection to walk the new life of Christ. Peter referred to the Holy Spirit as a "promise for you and your children," a reference to the Jewish believers. The promise was also "for all who are far off," a reference to Gentile believers who would become part of the harvest of souls. Let us commit ourselves to sharing the message of Christ so we can see the Spirit's power at work.

Van Horn is dean of the School of Christian Studies & the Arts at Mississippi College and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

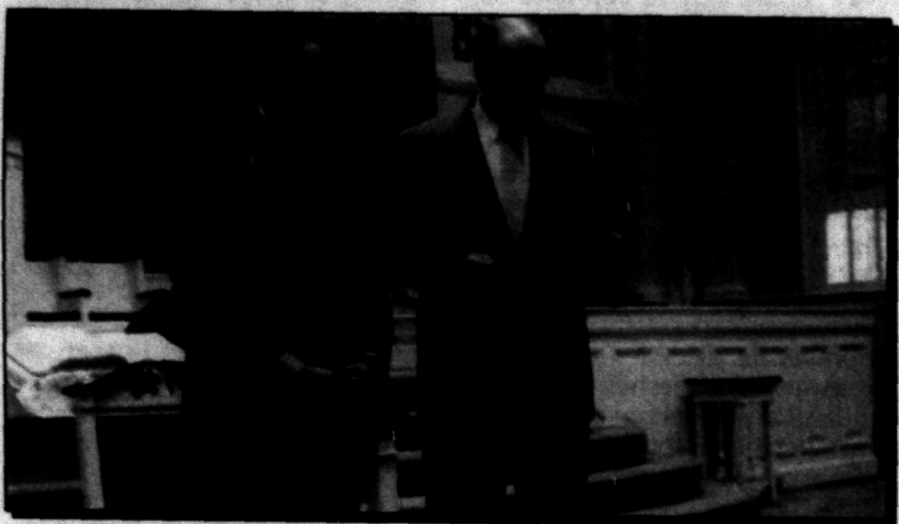
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THE BAPTIST
Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



3. Calvary Church, Greenwood



5. First Church, Vicksburg

1. **Damascus Church, Flora**, will host a 25th anniversary celebration for pastor Sonny Bradshaw June 1; worship, 11 a.m., followed by a covered dish meal and gospel sing and recognition service, 1 p.m.

2. **Spoken 4 Quartet, Branson, Mo.**, will be in concert June 8, 7 p.m., at **Concord Church, Pelahatchie**. A love offering will be received. For information, call (601) 420-0943.

3. **Calvary Church, Greenwood**, held a Mother's Day recognition recently. Shown are Patricia Griffin, youngest mother with most children; Lucille Braswell, oldest mother present; Genice Bradshaw, oldest mother with most children; and Jill Browning, youngest mother.

4. **Calvary Church, New Augusta**, will host a gospel sing May 31, 7 p.m.

5. **First Church, Vicksburg**, ordained Earnie Hall to the gospel ministry Apr. 6. He currently serves as chaplain for the Warren County Jail and a hospice ministry. He shares his testimony and ministry in other

churches and may be contacted at (601) 415-9000 or through the church. Shown is Hall, left, and pastor Matt Buckles.

6. **Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian**, held a Senior Adult Day May 4. Shown are the participants.

7. **Westwood Church, Meridian**, recognizes its youth Bible drillers. Shown are Emma Reeves, Carley Swearingen, Jordan Davis, Emily Hicks, and Lindsey Beard.



6. Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian



7. Westwood Church, Meridian

Visit us online at www.mbcab.org to learn about all Mississippi Baptist mission opportunities.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **West Corinth Church, Corinth**: Revival, June 15-18; Sun., 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Hale, speaker; Harold King, pastor.

2. **Coila Church, Coila**: Homecoming and Revival, June 1-5; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon concert with Joyful Noise; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Melvin Mordecai, speaker; Billy Blakely, pastor.

3. **Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg**: Revival, June 1-6; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Whitt Lewis, speaker; Johnny Eubanks, music; Keith Fulton, pastor.

4. **Bowlin Church, Sallis Community**: Homecoming, June 8, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon music service; Charlie McBride, speaker.

5. **Calvary Church, New Albany**: Homecoming, June 8.

6. **Calvary Church, Natchez**: Revival, June 1-4; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Moss, speaker; Mike Harrigill, pastor.

7. **Laurel Hill Church, Neshoba Association**: Homecoming, June 8; no Sunday School; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner and afternoon singing; Tony Henry, speaker; Hugh Martin, pastor.

8. **Hopewell Church, Hopewell (Crystal Springs)**: Revival, June 1-4; Tom McCormick, speaker; Ken Hedgepeth, music.

9. **Coldwater Church, Philadelphia**: Homecoming, June 8; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck dinner; Albert McMullan, speaker; Steve Turner, music.

10. **County Line Church, Dossville**: Revival, June 1-4; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Josh Brady, speaker; Shane McGivney, music; Elevyn Burchfield, pianist; Danny Sephton, interim pastor.

11. **Hebron Church, Clay County**: Memorial service, June 1; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; Andy Parrish, speaker.

12. **Liberty Church, Nettleton**: Revival, June 9-13, 7 p.m.; Gary Marks, speaker.

13. **Calvary Church, Louisville**: Memorial Sunday, June 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon.

14. **Mt. Horeb Church, Collins**: Homecoming, June 1, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Eddie Parker, speaker; Bob Thames, music.

The Baptist Record

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205-0530



First Baptist Church Brandon's

GAME TIME

MINI-SPORT AND CREATIVE CAMPS

June 22-25 • 6-8:30 pm

FBC West, 175 Boyce Thompson Drive
(next to Rouse Elementary)

CAMPS

Soccer • Flag Football • Baseball • Art
Karate • Drama • Softball • Basketball
Cheerleading and many more offered!

Each mini-camp will have basic instructions, game time & awesome Bible study. Regular Vacation Bible School for 4 years - completed K5. Register by June 20 at www.fbcbrandon.com or at our offices 809 South College St, across from Brandon Middle School) For info. call 601-825-6766.